



Coalition Briefs

FLASH

BREAKING NEWS ABOUT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH IN NEW YORK

Koppell to Chair City Council's Mental Health Committee

Earlier today, the New York City Council appointed Councilmember G. Oliver Koppell (D-Bronx) as the new chair of the Mental Health, Mental Retardation, Alcoholism, Drug Abuse & Disability Services Committee. Koppell was elected to the Council in 2001 after over thirty years of public service as a State Assembly member, State Attorney General, and President of School Board District 10.

The members of the Mental Health Committee are Gale Brewer (D-Manhattan), Simcha Felder (D-Brooklyn), James Gennaro (D-Queens) and Annabel Palma (D-Bronx). Councilmember Palma will head a Drug Abuse subcommittee of the Mental Health Committee. Palma entered the council in 2004 after extensive experience as a union organizer and political campaign member. The members of the Drug Abuse subcommittee remain unknown at this time.

The City Council's Health Committee will be chaired by Joel Rivera (D-Bronx). Rivera is currently the Council's Majority Leader. He entered the council in 2001 and is well known for his involvement in community activities. The members of the Health Committee are Maria del Carmen Arroyo (D-Bronx), Maria Baez (D-Bronx), Yvette Clarke (D-Brooklyn), Inez Dickens (D-Manhattan), Helen Foster (D-Bronx), John Liu (D-Queens), Miguel Martinez (D-Manhattan), Michael McMahon (D-Staten Island), Rosie Mendez (D-Manhattan), Helen Sears (D-Queens), Kendall Stewart (D-Brooklyn) and Albert Vann (D-Brooklyn).

The Coalition congratulates Council Members Koppell, Palma and Rivera on their committee assignments. We look forward to working with the Chairs, as well as with Speaker Quinn and the full City Council, on issues of importance to the community mental health sector.